

Examinations in Obstetrics.

To the Editor of the STATE JOURNAL: I trust that you will accord me the courtesy of the JOURNAL, that I may enter a protest as to the authenticity of facts, as set forth in the issue of September, under the *ad captandum* title, "A Worthy Examiner." Without disparaging the transcendent merits of the examiner in question, I am constrained, in justice to the Board of Examiners, and in defense of gentlemen, who had the honor (or misfortune?) to examine in obstetrics, to point out to your readers, that the data touching such examinations in the past is quite erroneous. The following figures showing percentage of failures in obstetrics, for the years 1903-04, will best subserve the argument. At the several examinations of 1903, the percentage of failures in obstetrics was 8.7, and in 1904 the failures to pass in this subject were 9.11 per cent. In the light of these facts, the *extreme* jocundity of examinations in obstetrics is not strikingly apparent. Yours very respectfully,

W. S. THORNE.

[It is to be regretted that Dr. Thorne feels any personal irritation at the editorial note referred to, as the writer of the said note states that he did not know that Dr. Thorne had at any time conducted the examination in obstetrics. The statements as given in the editorial were made independently by two members of the board, and also by several candidates, and have been reiterated by other candidates subsequent to the receipt of Dr. Thorne's letter. The records of the board give the following percentages of those who failed to pass the examinations during the period referred to: July-August, 1903, failed 26.8%; April, 1904, failed 27.4%; July-August, 1904, failed 37%; October, 1904, failed 32%. Dr. Thorne is to be commended for calling attention to the fact that the generally expressed feeling that the examinations in obstetrics were unusually easy is not so markedly apparent from the records when the actual figures are considered. This is a case just the reverse of that illustrated by the general feeling—now shown to be somewhat un-

reliable—regarding pathology, which was considered exceedingly difficult but which the records show to be about the general average, though decidedly higher in percentage of rejections than obstetrics. A typographical error is to be noted in the editorial under discussion; the minimum 50%, as therein published, should be 75%.—Ed.]

Mississippi Valley Medical Association.

At the next meeting of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association, to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., October 10th, 11th and 12th, the annual addresses will be delivered by Dr. Arthur R. Edwards, of Chicago, and Dr. W. D. Haggard, of Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Edwards has chosen for the subject of his address, "Certain Phases of Uremia, Their Diagnosis and Treatment," and Dr. Haggard will discuss in his address, "The Present Status of Surgery of the Stomach." In addition to these addresses, there will be the annual address of the president, Dr. Bransford Lewis, of St. Louis.

A cordial invitation is extended to every physician in the valley to attend this meeting, for which a large number of interesting and valuable papers have been promised.

Dr. Olmacher Joins Frederick Stearns & Co.

Dr. A. P. Olmacher, recently of Gallipolis, Ohio, has been appointed director of the biologic laboratories of Frederick Stearns & Co., of Detroit, and has entered upon the duties of that position, which are chiefly those of original research in biologic therapeutics.

Medical men familiar with the literature of pathology, bacteriology and serum therapy in America, know Dr. Olmacher as a pioneer investigator in these branches of science. He was one of the first bacteriologists in this country to immunize a horse against diphtheria, and to produce a serum of clinical value.

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the liberal use of the odorless solution of metallic chlorides, commercially known as "Platt's Chlorides," is recommended for disinfecting the discharges, deodorizing and refreshing the air of the sick-room, by the most eminent physicians and sanitarians, among whom are;

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Dr. Benjamin Lee	- -	Secretary, Pennsylvania State Board of Health
Dr. Thomas Darlington	- - -	President, New York Board of Health
Dr. Samuel H. Durgin	- - -	Health Physician, Boston, Mass.
Dr. Heman Spalding	- - -	Chief Health Inspector, Chicago, Ill.

For disinfecting dejecta, dilute one part chlorides with 4 parts water.

For deodorizing by sprinkling and for moistening towels or cloths to be suspended in the sick-room, dilute one part chlorides with 10 parts water.

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